

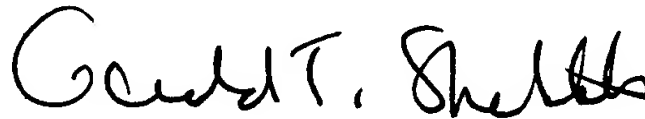
REMARKS

Applicant hereby submits amended claims 9-13 which utilize language restricting the heat treating steps to those recited, and as such believes the claims recite over the cited art.

Applicants hereby request reconsideration and reexamination thereof.

With the above amendments and remarks, this application is considered ready for allowance and Applicants earnestly solicit an early notice of same. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, he is respectfully requested to call the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
WELSH & KATZ, LTD.



Gerald T. Shekleton
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Date: **June 28, 2006**

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